

# AP Biology Course Syllabus

Chinese Christian Schools 2010-2011

Instructor: Ms. Trisha Chung

Email: trishachung@ccs-rams.org

Welcome to AP Biology!! I'm excited about this upcoming year as your students explore the concept and application of Biology!

## Course Description:

AP Biology is a rigorous course which covers first-year college biology. The two main goals of AP Biology are to help students develop a conceptual framework for modern biology and an appreciation of science as a process. The course is replete with unfamiliar technical vocabulary so reading at a college level is highly recommended for all AP Biology students. This course is heavy on reading, vocabulary, memorization, critical thinking and scientific writing. Lectures are 50 minutes. Students are required to take Cornell-style notes and review them regularly. Laboratory work consists of 12 multi-day labs which explore all aspects of biology from biochemistry to animal behavior.

This course is fast-paced, intensive, and requires **more at-home study time than the standard college-prep courses** offered at CCS. The College Board determines AP course content and pacing website at: <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/about.html>  
For sample questions and a detailed course outline see the College Board's AP Biology website at: [http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/sub\\_bio.html?biology](http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/sub_bio.html?biology)

Students are provided several planning tools:

- Course Schedule
- Calendars
- Reading and Lecture Guides

## **Prerequisites:**

B or better in both Alg I and Chemistry, junior or senior standing

## **Student Texts & Resources: (required for all students)**

- Primary Text: Purves, William K., et al. Life: The Science of Biology. Cranbury, NJ: Sinauer Associates, Inc., Seventh Edition ISBN: 0-7167-9856-5 or 9780716798569
- Lab Book: AP Lab Manual for Students, 2001 revision. College Board.
- Science News Magazine (from the school library)

## Supplies:

5 subject spiral notebook reserved entirely for AP Biology

Pens: black, blue, green

Markers: yellow, red

1 ½ inch, 3-ring binder

## **Work Load**

AP Biology has an average of 8-10 pages of difficult detailed **reading every night**. This should take top-notch student about 45 minutes. Atypical student will require at least an hour a night for reading. Reading means more than passing your eyes over the material. It means remembering the concepts, vocabulary and the details in each passage. Re-reading is often necessary. You will be required to keep

a reading log with notes recording the date and what pages you read/taken notes. This will be compared to your reading quizzes.

Lab reports involve completing the questions in the AP Biology Lab Manual. Lab reports take between 45 min and 2 hours. Essays take about an hour each during the learning period, and 22 minutes thereafter.

**Plan on an hour per night for AP Biology if you are a strong student. Plan on 1.5-2 hours per night if you are a normal student!**

Daily attendance is expected and late work is not accepted in this course. Quizzes are weekly and worth 10-20 points. Unit tests will cover between 2 to 7 chapters at a time and will be given approximately every 2 weeks and are worth 100 points. Quizzes and tests mainly consist of multiple-choice questions and occasionally essay questions.

**Grading Outline:**

- 50% Tests & quizzes
- 15% Midterm/Final exam
- 25% Labs & projects
- 10% Homework/Classwork

Semester grades are determined by the accumulation of work and tests given throughout both quarters. Quarter grades are determined by an ongoing grade by these percentages for the work done throughout the quarter.

If you have any questions about how your papers were scored, you must talk with **the instructor within 5 school days** of when the assignment was returned. Once the 5 days are up, there will be no more opportunity for discussion about the score. Of course, clerical errors may be addressed at any time. Be sure **to keep all of your papers** as proof of score.

Grade distributions are given according to the guidelines set in the Student Handbook.

**Extra Credit:**

Extra Credit will be offered throughout the school year to **all** AP Bio students. The value will not exceed 2% of the total semester grade. It must be turned in by the due date. Extra Credit will not be given as a last minute grade boost.

*Note: I know grades are very important. Many of you have future plans that depend upon achieving a particular GPA. Be diligent about your class work throughout the whole year. Always do your best on every assignment. Don't put yourself in a position of trying to rescue your grade at the last minute. We will both end up feeling badly.*

**Summer Assignments:**

Read Chapters 52-58 of the required textbook, taking one page of reading notes per chapter. Be prepared for an exam on the material the first full day of AP Biology.

**Requirements:**

1. Complete the assigned reading, essays and labs.

2. Take organized notes and regularly review those notes
3. The completion of all 12 labs and all questions in the AP Biology lab manual.
4. Completion of the dissections or an alternative assignment covering the same material.

### **Course Overview:**

Summer: Ecology, Ch 52-58  
August: Biochemistry Ch 1-3  
September: Cells Ch 4-5; Energy & Enzymes Ch 6-8  
October: Genetics Ch 9-12; Biotechnology Ch 16  
November: Development ch 19-21; Evolution Ch 22-26  
December: Taxonomy Ch 27-34  
January: Anatomy & Physiology Ch 41-46  
February: Anatomy & Physiology Ch 47-51  
March: Plants Ch 35-40  
April: Ecology again and AP Biology Exam Review

### **Make-up Work & Absences:**

1. Check your class calendar handout and ask your classmates for notes/worksheets that you missed.
2. Each of you is responsible for keeping up with your own make-up work and missed material.
3. If extra help is needed, I am available to help you after school and by appointment most days.
4. If you miss a *test or quiz*, you will need to schedule a time to make up the test after school within 2 school days upon your return, or you will receive a 25% on your test/quiz. Note that the make-up test may be different from the test taken in class the day absent.
- 5. Daily, punctual attendance is extremely important to your success in this course.**
6. Unexcused absences/tardies or failure to make up missed work in the required amount of time will result in zero points for tests, quizzes, labs, homework, class work etc.
7. Missed class assignments *due to excused absence* need to be made up within 2 school days of your return to class. Make-up labs are usually not offered due to the nature of perishable lab materials and time requirements, however you will be required to fully complete the lab with provided data or the equivalent and satisfy the “make-up lab” assignment. Absence on lab days has a negative effect on your class participation score.

### **Homework/Late Work Policies:**

1. Late Work will be accepted the day after for up to four times during the semester for only half credit.
2. All homework assignments & labs are due at the beginning of the period or late work credit will be given.
3. A monthly calendar is provided and each day’s assignment(s) will also be posted on the white board at least one class period before it is due.
4. Assignments with no name or illegible writing will unfortunately receive half credit.
5. Chapter homework will consist of questions, descriptions of figures, etc. provided in the form of reading guides accessible on the website and outlined in the class calendar.
6. Homework, if absent, it is due the day you return.

### **Classroom Rules and Safety:**

In the class respect and safety are key. It is important that you respect others and yourself to make the classroom an enjoyable learning environment. All rules and safety measure revolve around behaviors that are respectful and encourages student to learn. Consequences will be given based on the discretion of the teacher in order to maintain a safe learning environment for all students.

**No electronic device policy:** no cell phones, pagers, games, stereos or personal programmable devices of any type are to be seen or heard in class. Programmable calculators are not allowed during exams/quizzes. If any electronic device is seen or heard during the test, even if other students are taking a test, students will receive an automatic "0".

### **Academic Honesty:**

High integrity and academic honesty is expected. Students should not do anything that would bring their integrity into question. Cheating and plagiarism is taking (or lending) at inappropriate times a person's work, information, ideas, research, or documentation, without properly identifying the originator. All assessments (homework, labs, quizzes, exams, projects, etc) are expected to be completed only by the student. Collaboration and teamwork is allowed on homework, but individual work, distinctly original from the lab partners' work is always required or zero credit will be earned. DISHONESTY is not tolerated and will always result in a "0" on that test/assignment, a referral, contact home and possibly further disciplinary measures as per school policies. Students copying and students allowing others to copy their work are both academically dishonest and will result in a "0". Do not put your classmates in an uncomfortable position by asking to copy. Make the right choices!

### **Student Assistance:**

Most days the class will be divided between discussion/lecture, guided practice and lab. For homework, you are expected to keep pace by reading about half a chapter to a chapter for every class period. If you are having a hard time following a concept, please arrange to see me as **soon as you are feeling confused. Be your own advocate; don't put off asking for help.** I am available by appointment or most days after school. The easiest way to make an appointment is to stop by my classroom to see me. You can make arrangements via email too.

I look forward to working with you this school year! ☺